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**To: Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board**

**On: 28 January 2022**

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**Report by: Clerk**

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**Heading: COVID-19 Emergency Governance Arrangements**

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Direction Required to Health Board, Council or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	<b>X</b>
	2. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	
	3. Renfrewshire Council	
	4. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and Renfrewshire Council	

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 On 14 January 2022 the Integration Joint Board (IJB) authorised the Interim Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the IJB, to make urgent decisions where necessary arising from the impact of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 that required to be taken prior to this meeting.
- 1.2 This briefing provides an update on the current position and seeks an extension of this delegated authority until the next IJB meeting on 25 March 2022.
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## **2. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the IJB:

- Notes the update provided at Section 3 below;
  - Agrees to extend temporary measures for the Interim Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the IJB, to make urgent decisions where necessary arising from the impact of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 that require to be taken prior to the next meeting of the IJB, including on the temporary suspension of services and/or the redeployment of staff from areas to maintain service provision in priority areas; and
  - Agrees that a report will be brought to the next scheduled meeting of the IJB on 25 March 2022 setting out the decisions taken by the Interim Chief Officer under the delegated powers authorised in this report
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### **3. Update**

- 3.1 Since the last IJB meeting on 14 January 2022 the HSCP has put in place a range of mitigations to ensure it can respond to a projected increase in demand pressures, as a result of increased hospitalisations due to the Omicron variant, from late January. Whilst capacity within social care services is now starting to stabilise, pressures are likely to come from increasing demand on our social care services, specifically Care at Home.
- 3.2 The HSCP's main objective is to continue to maintain existing service delivery models, including the ongoing provision of care at both critical and substantial levels and the provision of day services.
- 3.3 To date, no urgent decisions have required the Chief Officer to invoke the temporary delegated powers approved by the IJB however a range of further mitigating actions have been taken which include:
- A number of HSCP staff have been identified as able to be deployed from wider HSCP services to support the provision of direct care under current delivery models. The majority of staff are individuals that already have the necessary training, experience and PVG to provide direct care. This provides the HSCP with the flexibility to meet changes in demand, and staff will continue to be utilised in their current roles until demand requires them to be deployed to services such as Care at Home. These staff are in the addition to those already mobilised to support COVID specific services for example, to support the delivery of mass vaccination centres and the neighbourhood hubs.
  - Renfrewshire Council has committed to support the HSCP to explore where council resource can be freed up to assist critical social care services, in line with the national agreement between COSLA and the Scottish Government. The HSCP recently hosted open sessions for Council employees to explain volunteering requirements and has developed an information pack which sets out the different ways staff can help, even without experience working in social care. It has been agreed that the welfare calls for vulnerable service users will be rerouted to the Neighbourhood Hubs to free up social care capacity. Furthermore, the Council are proactively identifying volunteers for other roles including driving, befriending and COVID Marshalls.
  - The HSCP has also been working with Engage Renfrewshire to place targeted advertisements for sessional staff to support Care at Home to meet pressures over the period through to the end of March 2022. Opportunities will also be available for longer-term sessional work.
- 3.4 We are continuing to deploy our resources where they are needed most, taking an informed, risk assessed approach which can flex and adapt to changing circumstances. In light of the ongoing and rapidly changing position, the Interim Chief Officer is seeking extended delegated authority to make urgent decisions, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the IJB, where those decisions cannot not wait until the next scheduled meeting of the Board.

- 3.5 An update report will be brought to the next IJB Meeting on 25 March 2022 to allow members to further review governance arrangements.

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### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** - The Chief Officer will brief the Chair and Vice Chair on any finance implications relating to any decision being proposed under the delegated emergency powers.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – The Chief Officer will brief the Chair and Vice Chair on any HR implications relating to any decision being proposed under the delegated emergency powers.
3. **Community Planning** – Nil
4. **Legal** - This report seeks approval the continuation of existing temporary governance arrangements established by the IJB
5. **Property/Assets** – Nil
6. **Information Technology** – Nil
7. **Equality & Human Rights** – Nil
8. **Health & Safety** – Nil
9. **Procurement** – Nil
10. **Risk** – Nil
11. **Privacy Impact** – Nil

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### **List of Background Papers:**

‘COVID-19 Emergency Governance Arrangements’ 14 January 2022

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Any enquiries regarding this paper should be directed to Christine Lavery, Interim Chief Officer ( <a href="mailto:christine.lavery@renfrewshire.gov.uk">christine.lavery@renfrewshire.gov.uk</a> )
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